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Miss Nibbs' Novelty Shop

—BY—

ALTA BECKER

PRICE 25 CENTS

Eldridge Entertainment House

Franklin, Ohio *and* Denver, Colo.

944 So. Logan Street

Money-Making Entertainment Novelties for Church, School or Lodge

Miss Nibbs' Novelty Shop

By Alta Becker. This is a novel and humorous entertainment, introducing 'Liza Ann, Miss Nibbs, two traveling salesmen, shoppers, mechanical dolls and mechancal maid of all work. A good little stunt where a short, clean, humorous number is desired. Plays about 30 minutes. Price, 25c.

The Brightville Indoor Chautauqua

By Bessie Baker and Nellie Hanna. Here is a brand new idea for an evening's entertainment. It is in 5 parts, each part representing a day at Chautauqua. Gives wide scope for introduction of large cast and many specialties. Complete programs suggested as follows: Part 1, Chautauqua Concert Company; Part 2, Living Pictures; Part 3, Musical Entertainers; Part 4, Farmers' Night; Part 5, Coonville Jubilee Singers. Price, 35c.

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By Margaret S. Bridge and Margaret H. Hahn. The Grand Annex and Musee, Freaks, Curiosities and Monstrosities, never were in it with the marvelous, amazing, mystifying array outlined in its pages. Artistic, ambling, agile, 'andsome acrobats; cajoling, cadaverous, costly, curious, cunning clowns; Hee-Shee, the Monkey Girl of Yucatan; all of these and many others will be seen in the Big Peerade before the show starts, ladies and gentlemen. Keep to the right—don't crowd. Price, 25c.

As Ye Sew

A "talking doll" missionary play by Dorothy Crichton. A lot of fun and some wholesome lessons are contained in the conversation of the dolls who discuss the motives of their donors. Splendid for Young People's or Missionary Societies. 10 girls, 1 boy, or all girls. Time, 20 minutes. Price, 15c.

Finding the Key

A dialog and drill for 10 or 12 girls and boys. Suitable for any religious program, but especially for Easter. Time, 20 minutes. Deals with problems of youth, recreations, etc.; also with those of Community Life and the present spirit of Unrest. Interspersed with suggested songs. Drill very effective. 25c.

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FRANKLIN, OHIO also DENVER, COLO.
944 S. Logan St.

MISS NIBBS' NOVELTY SHOP

A Play in Two Scenes

By ALTA BECKER

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ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE,
Franklin, Ohio, also Denver, Colo.

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Cast of Characters

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Miss Nibbs—a middle-aged lady of the New England spinster type.

Liza Ann—an awkward young assistant.

Charles Chadwick, Stanley Stiggins } Traveling salesmen.

Shoppers: Mother and children; Professor and wife.

Miss Nibbs' equipment necessitates characters to represent the following: The Winged Victory, Bride and Groom Dolls, Japanese Doll, Sailor Doll, Clown Doll, Jack-in-the-box, Dutch Dolls *(boy and girl)*, Punch and Judy, Dancing Doll, Mechanical Maid-of-all-work.

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Miss Nibbs' Novelty Shop

SCENE I.

(Miss Nibbs is seated at a small desk in the corner of her shop, nervously fingering letters and bill. Liza Ann is dusting the wares on display on tables and counters. Hats, fantastically trimmed, are on small stands, and there hould be a generous supply of articles well known to the audience.)

Miss Nibbs—Liza Ann! What have we on display in the show window this morning? Speak promptly please.

Liza Ann—(runs and parts a curtain at the side of the stage and speaks very fast) On the floor, ma'am, are two cans of talcum powder in Oriental containers, one Good Grooming Hair Brush, five hair nets, assorted colors, ma'am, two packages of Hump Hair Pins, keep the hair in place whether skating, dancing or—

Miss Nibbs—Liza Ann! Reflect! Meditate! Consider! This is Friday, our busiest day usually, and I am anxious to have everything in order before our patrons begin to arrive. In Mr. Cash's valuable book, entitled—h-m-m-m, entitled—

Liza Ann—"Hints to the Successful Salesman," or "Profits in the Selling of Merchandise Solved"—

Miss Nibbs—(continuing calmly) Is a chapter entitled—h-m-m-m—

Liza Ann—"The Art of Window Decoration" or "How to Attract Every Age and Class."

Miss Nibbs—Exactly, Liza Ann, and my purpose in asking you what we had on display was to see whether or not we had heeded Mr. Cash's excellent advice. What have we, for instance, to attract the—h-m—the— *(she turns over the pages of a book.)*

Liza Ann—The Methodist minister's wife, ma'am?

Miss N.—Exactly, Liza Ann. I see my instructions have not been in vain. You *do* understand.

Liza Ann—Diamond Dyes, Fast and Fadeless.

Miss N.—And for the women of the college faculty? Something intellectual.

Liza Ann—(impressively) We have it, ma'am, Webster's Unabridged.

Miss N.—And for the business man?

Liza Ann—(enthusiastically) Overalls, ma'am, with an artistic sign done with my own hands which reads, "Buy these to wear at home. It will save your business suit."

Miss Nibbs—Liza Ann, you are a genius! But what will attract the college girls?

Liza Ann—We need a hat, the one with the red grapes is a beauty, Miss Nibbs, but we need a doll-woman to wear it.

Miss N.—A model you mean, Liza Ann, an inanimate, which means "without life," model.

Liza Ann—Would the Winged Victory do, Miss Nibbs?

Miss N.—Exactly. Bring her here, that beautiful creature, in part the creation of Praxiteles, in part my own. To think that I, Sophronia Nibbs, would ever attempt and accomplish such a marvelous task. Headless so long, with a head at last, and so becoming a one at that. The hat with the red grapes will look beautiful on her.

(Liza Ann has moved over toward Miss Nibbs a representation of the Winged Victory. A girl draped in sheets and with arms outstretched, can take this part.

Miss Nibbs and Liza Ann prepare her for the show window and she is moved behind the curtain, supposedly covering the window while Miss Nibbs resumes her work.)

(Enter, with a confident and jaunty air, Charles Chadwick, traveling salesman.)

Chadwick—Morning, Miss Nibbs.

Miss N.—Good morning, sir. I do not have the pleasure of addressing you familiarly, since I do not know your name.

Chad.—No offense meant, I'm sure Miss Nibbs. Please excuse me. My name is Chadwick, Charles Chadwick, and I am an agent for Loud's Fire Escape, a handy little article in use in all our leading institutions. I thought I was doing you quite a favor here in a college town, to suggest that you take the agency, but, of course, I can easily go over to Cramer and Caldwell across the street. Sorry I displeased you, madam. *(Takes his bag and is preparing to leave when Miss N. detains him.)*

Miss N.—I see that you are a courteous man, after all. Appearances are sometimes deceiving, of course, and Liza Ann and I, lone females, as you see, can not be too careful.

Chad.—Indeed not, madam. I should regret to hear that any harm had come to two such ladies. *(He bows as he speaks and Miss N. and Liza Ann look pleased.)*

Miss N.—(inquiringly) Fire escapes, you said?

Chad.—(taking from his bag a rope fire escape) Loud's Fire Escape, madam; in every public institution of our land we are seeking to place these escapes. Our plan is to find a responsible merchant, like yourself, madam, in every college town and allow them the proceeds of direct sale to the institution there located. Easy of manipulation, always in readiness, cheap, yet reliable, Loud's Fire Escape has saved thousands of lives already.

Miss N.—(impressed) I have no doubt of it, sir.

Chad.—In every room there is placed a huge, strong iron hook, capable of bearing the weight of the human

body, no matter how great its avoirdupois. On this hook hangs this rope escape, ready for instant service. Above is tacked this card showing Mr. Loud in the act of escaping on his own invention. It also contains the directions for use. This card may be had in pink, yellow or blue, as fancy or color scheme may dictate. May I demonstrate, madam?

Miss N.—Liza Ann, you may read the directions for the gentleman.

(Liza Ann takes the card and reads slowly, pausing at each semicolon. Chadwick works as she reads, demonstrating on Miss Nibbs, who becomes more and more excited.)

Liza Ann—(reading) "Place the red webbing belt under the arms; unfasten the knot in the rope; place the hands on the rope below the pulley; after looking to see whether the space below the window is unobstructed, drop—"

Miss N.—(shrieking and protesting) That is enough, young man, since I'm not escaping and have no intention of doing so. Liza Ann! Reflect! Meditate! Consider! How many of these escapes should I order?

Liza Ann—Assorted colors, ma'am, for display purposes, as Mr. Cash says in his valuable book.

Miss N.—You are invaluable, Liza Ann! You may take my order, Mr. Chadwick, for three escapes, one in pink, one in yellow, one in blue, as—h-m-m—I've forgotten the rest.

Chad.—Fancy or color scheme dictates, madam.

Miss N.—Exactly, sir. Good-day.

Miss N.—Liza Ann, do look at that crowd of children coming. You'd better nail all the furniture down.

Liza Ann—Too late, ma'am, they're here already.

(Enter Mother and children, noisily.)

Children—We want to buy some dolls. *(Exclamations: "I want a Jap doll." "I want a Soldier doll," etc.)*

Mother—Children! Children! Quiet, please. Now, Miss Nibbs, could you show us your mechanical dolls?

Miss N.—Certainly, madam. I'll have them brought in at once. *(Calls off stage.)* John, George, bring in the dolls. *(Two strong boys should carry dolls in by the arms if possible and place properly on the stage.)*

Miss N.—Dolls? We have any number of dolls, surely enough for the little dears to choose from. Liza Ann, will you demonstrate? You and the children will please sit down in these chairs.

(The success of this scene will depend on the contrasting quietness and animation of the "dolls." Liza Ann will go from one to the other to wind them up for their individual stunts. They must be quite lifeless until the winding-up process is begun, when they become more and more animated. When wound, the Bride and Groom Dolls will march while the Wedding March is softly played behind the scenes; the Japanese Doll will fan and look coquettishly about; the Sailor Doll will dance the hornpipe; Punch and Judy will have their usual dialog; the Dutch Dolls will clump in their wooden shoes to the edge of the stage, bow, kiss loudly, and return; the Dancing Doll will take a few dainty steps while music is played; Jack-in-the-box will bound up at a given signal; the Clown Doll will stand on his head. Miss Nibbs introduces each as Liza Ann winds them up.)

The Children—Mother, we do want the Dutch dolls. Can't we have them?

Mother—(to Miss N.) You can deliver them today, you said? Very well, the two Dutch dolls to Hillcrest Farm, and thank you for letting us see your wonderful collection.

(Liza Ann attaches a huge red "Sold" tag to the Dutch dolls.)

CURTAIN

SCENE II.

(Miss Nibbs, Liza Ann and Stanley Stiggins are in Miss N.'s main room, facing the automatic maid-of-all-work who is neatly dressed in blue gingham, white apron and cap, and who is standing very motionless. When she moves, it must be in a very stilted, stiff fashion.)

Stiggins—Yes, we are very proud of our invention, and justly so, I think you will admit, Miss Nibbs. She is not only useful but ornamental. Contrast her as she stands before you now, with the cold, impassive beauty of an electric washer, electric cleaner or whatever you may mention.

Miss N.—Sir, no contrast is possible. It seems scarcely probable that she is not a living, breathing soul.

Stiggins—Your enthusiasm is certainly gratifying, Miss Nibbs. You appreciate, as few could, the work which scientist and artist together have put upon this great invention, the automatic maid-of-all work.

Miss N.—I should like to see her at work.

Stiggins—Place a dust cloth in her hand, and press the button marked "A" here at her back, and she will demonstrate the rotary motion used in dusting. *(He demonstrates while Miss N. and Liza Ann watch admiringly.)* Press the button "B" and she will demonstrate the pedulum movement necessary in sweeping. Pull the red cord at the back of the neck and you see her kneading bread, thumping pillows or washing clothes.

Miss N.—Wonderful! Mr. Stiggins, you may have my order. Liza Ann! Reflect! Meditate! Consider! How many shall we take?

Liza Ann—One, on trial, ma'am.

Miss N.—Exactly! Blonde or brunette?

Liza Ann—This one is a beauty, ma'am.

Stiggins—Miss Nibbs, let me make this proposal: that you keep this maid on trial for a month and then the firm will be glad to receive such orders as you may wish to give us.

Miss N.—That will be very satisfactory to us, Mr. Stiggins. I see Professor and Mrs. Parsons from the college coming just now. They have such a large family and servants are so hard to get. This will be a perfect godsend to her. I shall demonstrate immediately.

(Mr. Stiggins goes out as Prof. and Mrs. Parsons enter. He is of the studious, dignified type; she is a plump, cheerful, little woman.)

Miss N.—(greeting them enthusiastically) I am so glad you came in just now. I do want you to meet our new automatic maid.

Prof.—(surveying the maid) My dear woman, you don't mean to say that she isn't alive!

Miss N.—That's just what I do mean, Professor. See these buttons here at the back. They govern her every action. Sweeping, dusting, washing, ironing, everything is provided for. What would you like to see her do first?

Prof.—Anything would do at our house, wouldn't it, Martha? Let's see her dust.

Miss Nibbs—(pushes the button carefully) See how graceful she is, and how clean the counter is where she has been working? Truly, Mrs. Parsons, the domestic problem is solved.

(As she finishes speaking the maid begins to move in a more and more violent fashion. The women retreat in fear, while the professor advances manfully to the attack.)

Miss N.—My dear professor, be careful! The wires must be crossed. O, I must have pushed the wrong button and she is doing general cleaning. Mr. Stiggins did say something—

(The maid seizes the professor by the shoulders, as he is trying to push buttons and pull strings. She drives him from the stage. Liza Ann and the professor's wife follow. The maid returns and "dusts" Miss Nibbs, who has been running frantically about crying: "Help! Mr.

Loud! Mr. Stiggins! Crossed wires! Police!" She is driven out by the maid, who returns and disappears through the side curtains. The sound of the winding up of the dolls is heard and soon they enter marching, led by the Bride and Groom Dolls. The Wedding March may be played during their march and exit. Following the Bride and Groom may come the Clown and Jack, imitating their stride, and occasionally jumping from the line of march; Punch and Judy follow next, then the Sailor and the Dancing Doll, hand in hand and at the end the Japanese Doll peering over her fan and the Automatic Maid herself, sweeping diligently, as she goes.)

CURTAIN

NOTE:—The interest of this play could be increased in college communities, by having an additional scene in which college men or women come to purchase certain books or articles, which are well known and appreciated, from a humorous standpoint, by local circles.

Some Bright New
Christmas Material

First Aid to Santa

By Ethel Sexton. A mighty bright playlet for 3 boys, 2 girls and 10 acting dolls (girls and boys). Plays 30 or 40 minutes. Price, 25c.

The Christmas Chain

By Lillian Pearson. A pretty sketch for 14 or more children. The Christmas Angel shows her complete Christmas Chain to two selfish sisters with happy results. Plays about 20 minutes. Price 25c.

How the Christmas Song Was Found

By Lillian Pearson. A simple, but beautiful sketch for any number of children, 12 required. Shows the real spirit of Christmas and tells how the glad Christmas song was found. Time, 20 to 30 minutes. For day schools or church entertainments. Price 25c.

Mr. Richey Changes His Mind

By Lee Owen Snook. Story of a crabbed, wealthy employer and how at Christmas time the memory of his mother changed his attitude toward his employes from that of a "driver" to a considerate comrade. An unexpected romance develops. 4 males, 4 females, and others, either high school or adults. Plays about 20 minutes. Price, 25c.

The Little Stranger

A moving picture Christmas play, by Edna Randolph Worrell. This is really a pantomime, the different scenes being either announced or shown on screen by stereopticon. 4 scenes "The Night Before Christmas Home of Orphan Children," "The Little Stranger at the Door," "The Little Stranger Entertains," "Christmas Morning." A pretty entertainment for any number of children. Plays about 30 minutes. 25c.

Ten Good Christmas Pantomimes

By Ethel Eldridge. A collection that will add novelty and effectiveness to your program. Specific directions for pantomiming some well-known hymns, songs and recitations—"Silent Night," "Little Town of Bethlehem," "When Good Old Kris Comes 'Round," "Favorite Carols," etc. Contains the music also. 40c.

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YOU WILL BE GLAD TO KNOW OF THESE NEW PLAYS

Training Mary

By Mary Shaw Page. A bright 1-act play with simple stage setting. William, husband of Mary, essays to train Mary, especially along the lines of correcting carelessness. As is always the case, William gets in deep water, but finally wades out. 2 males, 4 females, and plays about 45 minutes. Price, 25c.

The Hired Man's Courtship

By Alice Cripps. A short comedy-drama in 2 acts. Captain Edwards tires of wealth and the city, and procures work on Horton's farm, only to find that the farmer's daughter is an old sweetheart. Because of an intrigue on the part of the captain's cousin, an estrangement takes place, which ends happily when the captain finds the source of certain stories and refutes them. Aunt Hepsey, Jim and Ezra (colored), add comedy to the play. Plays about 45 minutes, and is for 3 males and 3 females. Price, 25c.

Merely Anne Marie

A comedy in 3 acts by Beulah King. 3 males, 5 females. Time, 2½ hours. The scenes are laid in a fashionable boarding house, and the characters are all distinct types and worth while. A successful playwright, desiring to escape notoriety, seeks seclusion at Mrs. Teague's and becomes the hero of Anne Marie, the dining room maid. The dialogue is bright, the situations clever and the story ends happily. 35c.

A Bit of Scandal

By Fannie Barnett Linsky. Comedy-drama in 2 acts. Francina, who is to play at the recital, composes her own number. On the evening of the recital, Mary Sherman, who precedes her on the program, plays Francina's compositions, which she has stolen. The reasons for the theft all come out later and of course, all ends well. Nine characters. Plays about 1 hour. Price, 35c.

Miss Burnett Puts One Over

By Ethelyn Sexton. A rollicking 1-act girls' play for 6 characters. Barbara's mother has a friend, Ann Burnett, who is to visit the girls at college, with the intention of giving a generous sum to the school. The girls, wishing o gain her good will, practice their "manners." Miss Burnett, however, appears in disguise and has much fun at their expense. All ends well and the school gets the money. Plays about 45 minutes. Easy setting and costumes. Price, 25c.

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Monologs of Merit

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By various authors and a real help to the teacher. Here are some of the dialogs: "A Strike Mother Goose Settled," "Casey's Twins," "A Lesson in Politeness," "Program for Roosevelt's Birthday," "Boy Wanted," "Helping Santa Claus," "Aunt Phoebe's Nerves," and many others. These are for all grades up to grammar. An abundance of choice recitations for all the grades. Price 40c.

Merry Rhymes of Little Folks' Times

By Margaret A. Fassitt. In this collection of choice little gems we present 40 short poems which are real "Kiddie" talk. They can be used as recitations by little people or as child impersonations by adults. By the way, they will make good reading for mothers and fathers at any time. "The Red Head," "Reflections of a Pup," "I Wish I Had a Ginger Cake," "When You Ask About Your Fixin's," "Our Twins," and many others will make you laugh. Price, 40c.

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By Mrs. W. M. Carruth. Tells how an "impractical" nurse unloads her own and others' troubles on her helpless patient. A good number. Price 15c.

Gossip in Slowville

By E. Haskell. Depicts the sayings of the village gossip and makes a very effective reading. Price 15c.

The Spinsterhood of Mary

A humorous number by Rhoda Barclay. Tells of Mary's resolve to live and die an old maid and her sudden change of mind. Price, 15c.

Mrs. Swattem Attends the Convention

This monolog by Rhoda Barclay is an account of the many complaints of Mrs. Swattem while at the convention. Her sharp tongue wags industriously, if not truthfully. Price, 15c.

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New Song-Recitations

HERE is a list of very clever child-impersonations or good encores for children. The lines are by Margaret Fassitt, the music by Anna and Harry C. Eldridge. They will be winners on your program.

Ain't It The Limit?
When You Ask About Your Fixins
} Both in one number **50c**

If Santa Shouldn't Come To Me
I've Been And Had The Measles
} Both in one number **50c**

I Wish I Had A Ginger-cake
Our Twins
} Both in one number **50c**

When Grandpop Was A Boy
When Daddy Took Me Up In A 'Plane
} Both in one number **50c**

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